IN THE BEGINNING

Published Quarterly
Woodson County Historical Society
Yates Center, Kansas
Vol 8 - No. 32

IN THE BEGINNING

Vol. 8 - No. 32 October-1975

Lester A. Harding - Editor

Editor's Notes —

Another year of **In The Beginning** has gone by making the end of Volume 8. Hardly seems like it has been eight years since we started putting the first of these quarterlies together.

If there is a red mark in a box above you will know that your subscription expires with this issue.

This was the float, prepared by the members of the Woodson County Historical Society, that was entered in the big Centennial and 4-H parade, July 30, 1975. Miss Debbie Dixon Centennial Princess candidate sponsored by the Historical Society is shown "doing her sewing". This float took second place in the Organizational floats. The theme of this float, "Preserving Our Heritage", was on the fireplace to the right of the picture.

IN THE BEGINNING
Published Quarterly By
Woodson County Historical Society
Yates Center, Kansas

$2.50 per year 65 cents a copy

WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Organized March, 1965

No regular meeting of the Historical Society was held during July, but the annual picnic was held at the shelter house in Lincoln Park. The group was rather small due to other activities, but the tables were loaded with much good eats.

The Museum was open five days a week, with many people going through it. It was especially a busy place during the Yates Center Centennial.

* * * * * *

The Centennial Parade in conjunction with the 4-H Fair and Parade, was said to be the longest and perhaps the best parade ever held here. It was estimated that around 4,000 people watched or participated in the parade. Your editor and wife rode in the parade in Elmer Krueger's covered wagon so we saw very little of the main parade, but we enjoyed the experience, although it was rather hot.

* * * * * *

The cover picture was taken during the Centennial Parade, The Grand Marshall was Judy Linde, who was chosen for that position because he had been in business and who is still operating that business in the City of Yates Center the longest period of time. Judy started barbering in Yates Center in 1921, and has been at it ever since, rounding out his business career of 54 years. J. W. (Judy) Linde along with his wife, Elizabeth Hamilton Linde, are both Charter members of the Woodson County Historical Society.

The driver of the Model A Ford is Bernard Gualding.

* * * * * *

Miss Nancy McCormick was chosen as the Centennial Princess and reigned throughout the Fair and Centennial Week.

IN MEMORIAN

Elsie Simpson 76 July 17, 1975

Mrs. Simpson had lived most of her life in Woodson County, and had been a member of this Historical Society for two year.

* * * * * *

Marcella Redfearn 75 August 3, 1975

Mrs. Redfearn was a lifetime resident of this county and had been a member of the Woodson County Historical Society since 1969.

* * * * * *

Join and Support
Woodson County Historical Society

Life Membership - $25.00 Regular Membership $2.00 per year

CENTENNIAL WEEK - August 17-23, 1975 —

The Yates Center Centennial Week started off with activities on Sunday afternoon, August 17, at the ball park. Father-Son baseball games and Mother-Daughter softball games, with many participating in these events filled the afternoon.

The Union Church services, sponsored by the Ministerial Alliance, was to be held in DeLay Stadium, but due to a shower and more threatening, the services were held in the high school auditorium. Rev. Lawrence Almond, who grew up at Yates Center, but now pastor of the Marshfield, Mass., United Methodist Church was the guest speaker.

Monday, the activities started at 5:30 p.m. as the crowd gathered in the courthouse lawn to watch the many envelopes and articles being put in the "Time Capsule", that was buried there — not to be opened until August 18, 2075, a hundred years from now. Helen Herring, Sec. of the Woodson Co. Historical Society was chairperson of this committee. R. Dale Campbell was Master of Ceremonies. Kansas Governor Robert F. Bennett was on hand for the ceremonies, as was Yates Center Mayor Robert Morton. From there the crowd went to the National Guard Armory where the Centennial barbecue was being served. Over 600 people were in attendance. Gov. Bennett spoke to the assembly. Around 30 Senior Citizens, 80 years old and over were recognized and presented with a gift. There were 'Beards' of all kinds in the 40 entries.

Tuesday evening, the Yates Center Community Orchestra and Choir gave a fine program at the Yates Center High School Auditorium.

Wednesday activities started around 7:00 p.m. in the court yard, as several hundred people gathered. Gallons of homemade ice cream and cake were served as the program went on in the bandstand. The teenagers gave a program. A 1900 Style Show was presented and the evening program ended with quite a few numbers by "The Rip-Cords", a barbershop quartet from Topeka.

Thursday was Kids Day, with games, races and contests being held at DeLay Stadium. A watermelon feed and swimming party was scheduled for the Middle School youth in the evening. The swimming party however was cancelled due to a tragedy at the pool at 5 p.m., when Gregory Knapp, 18, drowned.

An Historical Pageant, "Years of Yates Center", was presented at the DeLay Stadium. The Yates Center Stage Band played some pre-pageant music. Miss Dawn Van Tuyl, a teacher in the Yates Center High School was the author and director of the pageant. Rusty McMurray and Lottie Stockebrand were the narrators. Highlights

included tableaux showing the old fashioned one-roomed school, the dedication of the area by Abner Yates, moving buildings onto the townsite, the ceremony for the corner stone of the courthouse, a square dance by a local 4-H group, and several dance routines by students of Maribeth Weber. A beautiful Friday evening brought a crowd to over flow the stadium.

Saturday, the 23rd was the finale of the Centennial, with a basket dinner at noon with families and friends gathering at different tables and on the ground. Following the picnic dinner a program was held at the bandstand in the courtyard. The invocation was given by Walter Weide, John V. Glades was the Master of Ceremonies, introducing the different old timers of the area, and presenting prizes. A table with a register for those 80 years old and older. A standing ovation was given to Mrs. Grace Downey as she walked from the car to the bandstand. She was the oldest citizen. She will be 103 in October. The crowd was entertained by the Senior Belles and the Old Time Fiddlers and Pickers group of the area. Following this there were contests and games for the youth, including apple bobbing in a tank of water, pie eating contest, tricycle and other kinds of races. There was a short lull in the early evening the crowd began coming back for the dances on the street just to the east of the southeast corner of the square. The square dance started at 7:30, with dance teams from Iola and Eureka doing most of the dancing. This was followed at 9:00 with the street dance with music by a band from Pittsburg.

With the exception of the first evening, (Sunday) the weather was perfect for the Yates Centennial, although the mercury did get up into the 90 degrees almost every day. The Centennial Committee and the various working committees were well pleased with the crowd and entertainment during the entire week.

There were horseshoe pitching contests almost every evening, in the northeast corner of the courtyard.

It would be almost an impossibility to name every one who in some way helped to make this Centennial a success, as there were many people who helped in some project or program. It was this cooperation that made the Yates Center Centennial a success and enjoyable week.

100 YEARS AGO — Oct., Nov., Dec. 1975

Woodson County Post, Neosho Falls, Kans.

October 6, 1875 —

"On Monday a team of horses was hitched up near Bishop's store with an extra horse tied to the side of one of the team, and it kicked the latter and made him break his halter. Then they started down the street at break-neck speed. When they came to the public well they tried to run on both sides of it, which knocked the well frame into pieces, smashed up the harness, stove in the tire of one of the wheels, breaking the felloe and throwing some things on the ground, among them a loaded gun. The team was not hurt.

It belonged to some German named Schaide ------, living on Owl Creek. They repaired the well, Sam Hogueland repaired the harness and we got an item."

"Puff boxes, assafoetida, chamois skins, essence peppermint, extract white rose, blue ointment, musk, oil labels and lots more pretty things at the City Drug Store."

"It is noted that Abe Smith has announced himself as a candidate for Sheriff. He rendered himself rather unpopular last spring with the theiving portion of the county by the active part he took as a neighbor in helping Wm. Stewart bring the parties to justice who stole his horses."

November 3, 1875 —

Marriage licenses were issued to William Church and Emily Waldrip and Robert Daly to Cynthia Norris."

"B.H. and W.W. King, Neosho Falls, have just got back from Missouri where they have been for a load of apples.

Balt King says they were only offered $1.50 a bushel for apples in Humboldt and then sell the same ones out at $2.25 which he thinks was sticking it on a little so he brought his apples up the Falls."

November 10, 1875 —

"The vote on poor farm land was light. Many not voting. There were for 283, against 321."

We understand that the County Superintendent has formed a new school district for the new town, but we have not learned the boundaries of it.

Kalida won't let Center people attend their school so Palmer had to organize a district and they will build a school house in the future county seat."

Defiance News —

A man was divorced the last term of court and married again the next week.

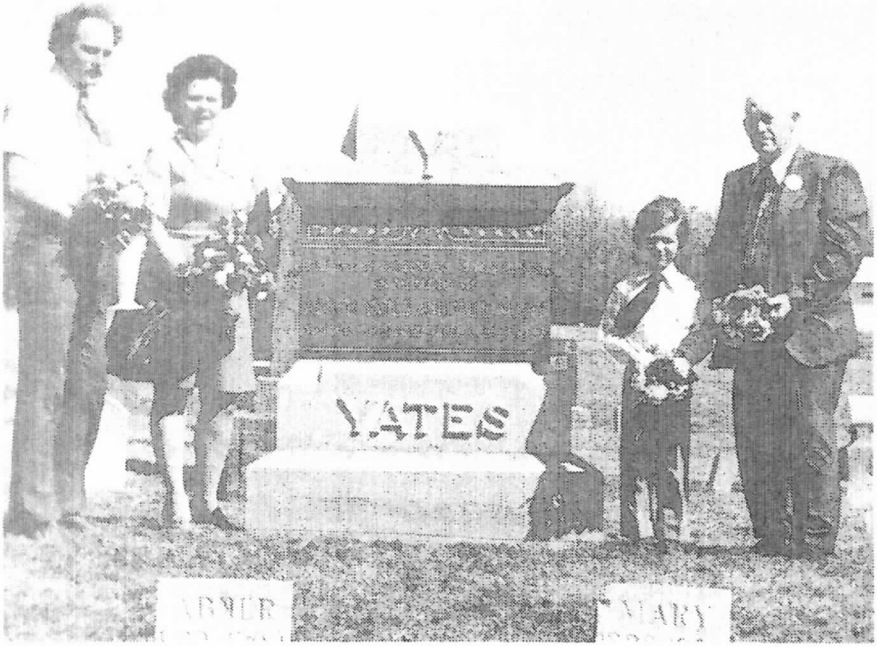
"Last week some of our friends at Kalida moved to the center. Ox teams all engaged."

"Mr. James Williams and Mr. McGee of Liberty went to the Land Office last week to prove up upon their claims.

December 1, 1875 —

"We paid our first visit to Yates Center last Saturday and found a few of the inhabitants rather sleepy. They had been indulging in a dance the night before and looked the worse for wear. Jim Fry was very anxious to show the water privilege as he called their wells, which we must say is a good improvement over Kalida. And we actually watered our team from the well. It is dug very wide, five or six feet across and enters solid rock after about 25 feet. There is plenty of water.

(The Woodson County Post Editor, W.W. Sain had been to visit his farm that was less than a mile to the southeast of Yates Center. Where Pete Stockebrand lives. Dan Cannady was the tenant on this farm at that time 100 years ago.)



Four generations place flowers at graves of Abner and Mary Yates during the Centennial observations in 1975.

The four are Lester A. Harding, President of the Woodson County Historical Society, a daughter Alberta M., (Mrs. Robert Edwards), grandson Donald L. Edwards and great, grandson, Trenton Bruce Edwards.

LUCIAN L. THRALL —

On August 31, 1882, L. L. Thrall, came to Neosho Falls. He obtained a job at the Falls House, the first hotel established in Neosho Falls and at this time it was the only hotel in the village. It was during the Neosho Valley District Fair, a four county affair, and at that date was a very popular place. Thomas L. Reid was the proprietor of the Falls House, and about five years later he became the proprietor of the newly built Woodson Hotel at Yates Center.

However Mr. Thrall did not stay very long at the Falls House. He was just 18 years old at that time. His employer T. L. Reid gave him a tip and he went to see and get a job with J. W. Bidwell, owner of a grocery and Queen's ware store. He went to work there as a clerk October 14, 1882, and remained in the grocery business in Neosho Falls for around the next 70 years.

Lucian Leonard Thrall was born on Flag Day, June 14, 1864, at Nevada, Iowa, where his father, Rueben R. Thrall was editor and publisher of the Story County Advocate. In 1866, Mr. and Mrs. Rueben Thrall and two year old son Lucian, came to Kansas, settling near Iola.

In 1866, the R.R. Thrall, wife Calista, four sons and five daughters, came with friends by wagon train to Iola. They settled on a farm northeast of that town in a log cabin. Lucien was two years old as they arrived in this part of Kansas. He attended his first school in a log building in 1868. One of his first recollections was of having been sent to his grandparent Trumbull's home, about a half mile distant for a small metal bucket full of live coals, covered with ashes so that a fire could be started from the coals.

After clerking in the store of J. W. Bidwell, for about nine years, Lucian Thrall went to work for Joseph Bishop, who owned a large general store in Neosho Falls. After clerking in the Bishop store for ten years he decided to go into business for himself. Going into partnership with E. M. Trout, they bought out the general store of Absalom Wentling, a store that had been established in the Falls in 1869. The store thrived under the name of Thrall and Trout, until the death of Trout in August, 1916. As administrator, Mr. Thrall continued the firm until the stock was sold and the estate was settled.

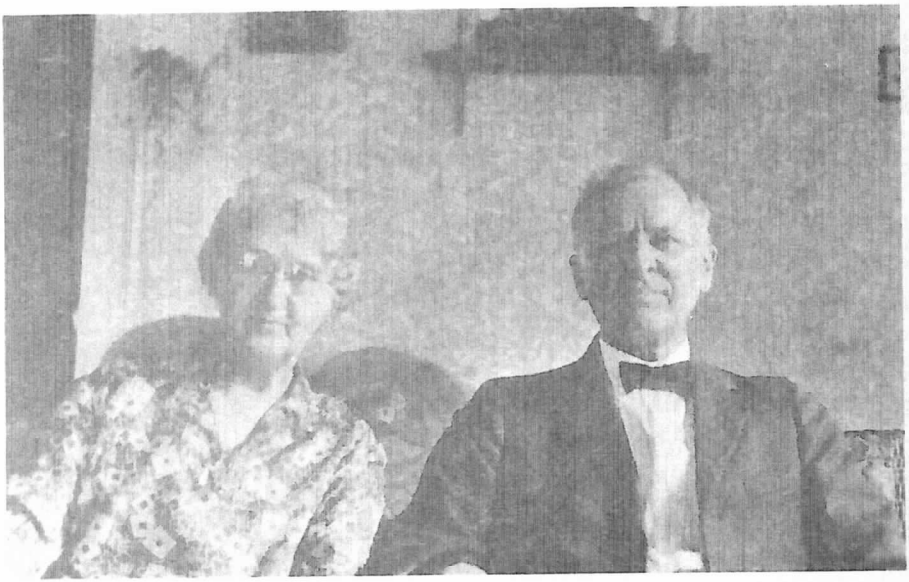
Meanwhile Thrall bought Trout's interest in the store building and ordered a new stock of goods. Mr. Thrall continued in the merchandise business there until his retirement in 1950.

On May 25, 1893, Lucien L. Thrall was married to Miss Abbie Inness, who came with her parents from Calair, Maine to Neosho Falls in 1871. Her parents were John A. and Mary E. Inness. The maiden

name of Mrs. Inness was Mary E. Dow, and a sister of Issac W. Dow, who was one of the founders of Neosho Falls. We have written some about Issac Dow in and eary issue of **In The Beginning,** but more about him was written in the No. 29, Vol. 8, January 1975.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Inness were of staid New England stock and brought with them ideas and beliefs of that area.

Not long after arriving here Mrs. Inness organized a class of the Universalist Church. Mrs. Inness seemed to be much concerned that the adults of the village did not take their religion more serious. The Universalist would meet at the schoolhouse each Sunday afternoon. The class did not last many years and was taken in by other denominations at Neosho Falls.



Mr. Thrall served on the city council and school board at the Falls. In September, 1946 he received a 50-year emblem from Tuscan Lodge No. 82, A.F. & A.M. of which he was a Past Master.

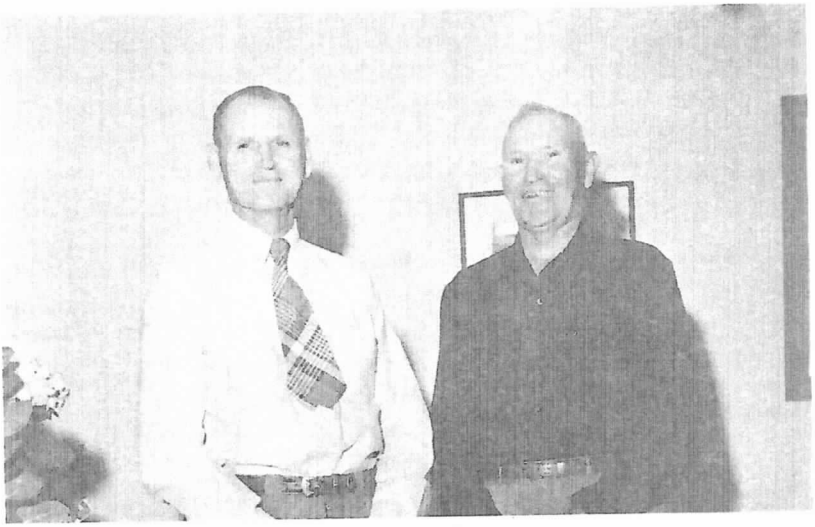
Despite the many years and experiences that he had as a clerk and store owner he never forgot his first customer. His employer Mr. Bidwell had gone to the bank when a quaint little English woman came into the store and inquired about the price of "butter and eggs". Mr. Thrall explained that he was new there and could not give the information. The little woman looked him over and said, "Hay pretty lookin' clark you har." And hurried out the door. Mr. Thrall never did know just how to interpret her remark.

Mr. and Mrs. Thrall were the parents of one daughter, who was given the name of Mildred Inness Thrall, who was born March 11, 1894.

Mrs. Thrall taught piano and was a composer of piano and vocal music, some of which was published. Mildred studied piano with her mother until she entered the Fine Arts School of Kansas University in 1914. She still teaches piano in her home.

Although holding no church membership the Thrall 'Trio' assisted with music in the Congregational, Presbyterian and Methodist churches in the village.

When the John Inness family came to the Falls in 1871, they purchased a small frame house, and it was in this house that Mildred Inness Thrall was born and where at the age of 81 years still lives in the same house. She is a talented musician and is active in the civic affairs of Neosho Falls, and surrounding area.



J. W. (Jim) and Andrew (Jack) Pringle

THE JOHN PRINGLE FAMILY —

Three Pringle brothers came to the United States from Scotland in the 1870's. They followed the pattern of most Scottish families in that period, that only the eldest son should continue the family business, and that other sons should emigrate to the United States or to parts of the British Empire. Farming practices and livestock practices were generally more advanced in Britain at this time than in the United States. This advantage was put to good use by these three Scottish immigrants to the United States.

Andrew Pringle was the first of the brothers to come in the 1870's. He first worked his way across the Middle West and eventually into the Arizona Territory. He worked for a time as a freighter of goods from Colorado into Arizona. He located a choice area of ranching land on Cherry Creek in Gila County, Arizona, and obtained range rights on it. Within a few years he had a good cattle business.

Robert Pringle came to Kansas a few years later. After working for several farmers in Woodson County, he purchased a farm on East Buffalo Creek in southeast Woodson County. He later went to Arizona to engage in ranching, near his brother Andrew.

John Pringle, the last to come, joined his brother Robert in 1879. He had intended to return to Scotland after visiting his brothers, but instead he was impressed with the opportunities offered for extensive farming and livestock raising insparsely settled Kansas, and decided to remain.

In 1882 John Pringle was married to Miss Emma Launders, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Launders of the Owl Creek neighborhood in Woodson County until 1889 when the family moved to Globe, Arizona for nine years. The move to Arizona came as a result of the death of Andrew Pringle. John and Robert Pringle took over the operation of their brother's ranching interests and continued the ranching operations of Robert in Gila County, where the family lived in Arizona.

When the John Pringle family moved to Arizona Territory in 1889 there were no railroad within 100 miles of Globe, their destination. The journey had to be completed by stage coach, part of it over rough mountain roads. The ranch where the family lived was near the Apache Indian Reservation. This was the time that the notorious Apache Chief Geronimo was on the warpath and white settlers were fearful until he was captured.

Supplies came in by freight wagons and there were long cattle drives to shipping points, such as Holbrook on the Santa Fe and Bowie on the Southern Pacific. The ranch cattle were long horns, and it was open range with cowboys herding or checking the cattle and roundups at intervals to sort our strays, do branding and cut-out cattle

for shipping. Branding was essential to identify ownership. The pringle brand was the "Flying H". It is interesting to note that this brand is now the Kansas registered brand for both Pringle businesses. The Pringle Ranch puts the brand on the right side of the animal and Pringle Brothers put it on the left side of the animal. We might add here that the Pringle Ranch is operated by W. J. (Jim) Pringle and son J. Richard Pringle, while the Pringle Brothers, the partnership of Lauren and Nelson Pringle, making three generation of the John Pringle Family that have been engaged in farming and livestock operations in Woodson County.

This picture of the John Pringle children was taken at Globe, Arizona, in 1897. From left to right are Elizabeth, Janet, Emma, Andrew, Robena and Margaret.

John and Emma Pringle were the parents of eight children, Elizabeth, Janet, Emma, Andrew, Margaret, Robena, James and Jane. And their families are as follows.

Elizabeth married William Peters. Their children were John Peters and Lillian (Mrs. Ned Hinkle)

Janet never married. In later years she and her mother moved to Buffalo.

Emma married Fred Grisier. Their children were Mary (Mrs. E.M. George), Robert, who married Alice Umholtz, and Esther (Mrs. Charles Lewis).

Andrew married Nina Crumrine. Their children were, Lauren, who married Ruth Ann Canty, and Nelson who married Dorene Jackson.

Margaret married Leonard Pool.

Robena never married. She was a school teacher for many years.

W. J. (Jim) married Pauline Mannen. Their children were, J. Richard who married Mardell Opperman. Paul Robert, who met with a fatal accident in 1951, at the age of ten, and Diana, who married Wayne Stockebrand.

Although the John Pringle family adapted well to ranch living Mr. and Mrs. Pringle looked upon their Arizona Ranch as a temporary home. They wanted to return to Kansas for a more stable, settled "fenced-in" kind of living, and they considered Kansas a better place to rear and educate their family.

Several years before returning to Kansas, Mr. Pringle purchased 1200 acres of land in Belmont Township. He shipped many cattle to be grazed, fed grain and later shipped to Kansas City. Prices were low in the depression period of the 1890's. There was a limited market for the range cattle when the U. S. Government purchased some of the best range cattle for military posts and for Indian Reservations. Many of the "cut backs" on the range were hardly worth the freight costs to Kansas. However Mr. Pringle considered it the best alternative to ship them out. One shipment went to Greenwood County. Another shipment was grazed on land east of Rose — than railroad land.

Frank and George Launders, brothers of Mrs. Pringle, looked after the cattle on this land. For several years Mr. Pringle made occasional trips from Arizona to Kansas, to look after these cattle. While here he stayed with the George Englebrecht family.

In 1898 John Pringle purchased one of the Neff farms, located 8 miles south of Yates Center, and the family returned to Kansas. This was the family home for many years, and where the Lauren Pringle family now live. One feature of this place is a remarkable cold spring over which the house was built. Even in drouth years, the spring flowed, furnishing not only adequate water for household use, but kept the nearby creek from drying up.

* * * * * *

The longhorn cattle soon all went to market, and the farm was stocked with well bred cattle. A feedlot was maintained in those first years. Mainly three year old steers were full-fed to such weights as 1600 pounds. Especially the export market of the time had a demand for mature and fat animals. An example of this demand is noted in the Daily Drovers Telegram in 1909 about a shipment of cattle from the Pringle farm that was sold for shipment overseas. Andrew Pringle, (who was known as Jack by many of his friends) then about 17 years old, had gone to Kansas City with the shipment and was commended for the quality of the cattle.

Another enterprise of John Pringle was the purchase of the Humboldt Mill, a water-powered grist mill. It was one of the oldest mills in southeast Kansas. Processed feed was hauled to the farm and grain was hauled there for processing. At a later date the mill was converted to a hydro-electric plant and later sold to Kansas Gas and Electric Co.

PIQUA —

Yates Center News, Geo. E. Faler & Co. Publishers - Oct. 6, 1882

Last week we spent a few hours very pleasantly at the bright little town of Piqua, situated at the junction of theMo. Pacific and Wichita, and were highly gratified to meet so much business activity and so many evidences of improvement and prosperity. Mr. J. W. Kesterson the pioneer merchant of the place, has a fine two story building well filled with a stock of general merchandise which will compare favorably with anything in the county and reports that his business has more than met his expectations. Messrs. Street and McClure, the former, the station agent for both roads, have recently put up a good business house and opened a fine stock of groceries.

These are both young men of liberal means, full of energy and pluck and will certainly succeed. Dr. J. J. Beckman, late of Columbus, Ohio, has about completed arrangements for putting in a stock of drugs. S.A. Brown & Co., the lumber kings of this part of Kansas, are preparing to open an extensive lumber yard here, the foundation for their office being already laid. John Kipp, a hardy disciple of Vulcan, does the blacksmithing for the town and vicinity.

The Methodists have completed arrangements for the building of a church ediface and have already commenced work thereon. But the crowning monument to the wide-a-wake, progressive spirit manifested by the citizens of the place is the schoolhouse, now nearly completed, which is one of the best in the county. It is a frame, with drop siding, 26 x 40 feet, 12 1/2 feet in the clear and is a model of beauty and workmanship in every particular. Miss Nancy Stewart, one of our most popular teachers, will preside over their first school.

The town of Piqua starts out with bright prospects for the future. We hope to see her people meet with that degree of success which their business energy and upright dealings entitle them to receive.

* * * * * *

Yates Center News - Nov. 9, 1883 —

The Piqua Reporter has "wood-bined" and the material thereof is now offered for sale. It was like a brilliant meteor while it lasted which necessarily made its span of life short. Bro. Wicks, who has returned to Humboldt, has our sympathies for the result of his misguided journalistic venture and our best wishes for his future success.

* * * * * *

Piqua had been recorded as a townsite on April 1, 1882. The first house in the townsite was a small frame section house and was occupied by the Patrick O'Donnell family, the first in the town. Patrick O'Donnell was section foreman.

TORONTO TOPIC — Friday, November 9, 1883 —

Toronto Topic by W. H. Jones - Official paper of Woodson County - For the Third Commissioner District.

"Charley Webb's new feed store, on Main Street is about ready for occupancy.

"In county politics Toronto will hereafter be recognized as one of the powers that be!

"Joe Afferbaugh has the handsomest and most complete blacksmith shop in the county.

"It is supposed that more money was used in the recent election than ever before!"

"Mr. Geo. M. White's new omnibus will commence running to and from trains and hotels next week.

"The Commercial House of this city has changed hands, Mr. J. R. Cross retiring, and Mr. Matlock assuming the duties of proprietor.

"The Ladies Sewing Society of Toronto will meet at the resident of Mrs. Weekly, on Broad Street next Wednesday, the 11th, at 2 o'clock p.m.

"Mr. Albert Webb's new residence and barn, in the southwest part of town, are nearly completed, and will add much to the thrifty appearance of that portion of the city.

"Kalico, Kashmere, Kanton flannels, Krash, Kambric, Kassimere, Kentucy jeans, Kretone, Kottonade, Krinoline, Karpet warp, Knitting, Kotton, Kurtains, Korsets, Kollars, Kuffs, Kombs, Kid and Kalifornia gloves, Koats and Klark's thread, Kash Kaptures 'em at Kellog's Korner. (ad of Seth R. Kellogg in Toronto.)

Rules for the Government of the City of Toronto, Kansas.

Rule 1 - All children between the ages of five to twenty-one years who are citizens of the school district, have a right to the privileges of the public schools and children of non-residents, on the payment of tuition fees prescribed by the Board, may be admitted whenever such admission will not occasion inconvenience to resident pupils.

Rule 11 - Pupils are required to be cleanly in person and apparel, to be punctual and regular in attendance, to be diligent in study to obey in a prompt and decorous manner all the orders to teachers; to be kind and obliging to each other in school and on the way to and from school to abstain entirely from profane, obscene or improper language, and to confirm to all the rules and regulations of the school.

(There were 17 of these rules for pupils - 15 for the teachers and two for the janitors.)

The school board was, I. F. Manuel, Director; S. C. Kinblade, Clerk; W. S. Lockhard, Treasurer.

ABRAHAM SMITH –

Perhaps one of the most colorful of the old time settlers of Woodson County was Abe Smith. He seemed to have a charmed life both in the army, and while sheriff of Woodson County.

Abe, as he seemed to be called mostly was born Morgan County, Ohio, July 7, 1819. When he was ten years old he moved to Illinois with his parents, Joseph and Hannah Smith.

In Kendall Co., Illinois, on July 10, 1841, Abraham Smith was married to Angeline Ackley. They were the parents of eleven children. Fidelia E., Phoebe Ann, Laura A., Joseph Ezra, George L., Francis M., Mary H., Elizabeth, Chester, Ada E., and Charles A.

In 1860, the Smith family moved to Kansas, locating on a farm in Allen County. The next year the Civil War broke out and in Sept. 1861 Abe Smith enlisted in Company G, in the Ninth Kansas Volunteer Cavalry, a part of the Iola Battalion.

The town of Humboldt was sacked on September 8, 1861, by a band of Missouri Guerrilla's, Cherokee Indians, and Osage Indian half-breeds. Abe Smith was a civilian at that date, but he took part in defending the town. He was captured by the Guerrilla's, and held for two days, before he managed to escape and made his way back home. Then on the 11th day of September he enlisted in Co. G. He was 42 years old.

On April 28, 1862, Abe's son, George L. Smith enlisted in the same company as his father. Their line of duty was mostly in the eastern part of the state, escorting trains, hunting guerrillas, fighting bushwhackers, scouting, and general border service. On May 28, 1863, while fighting a group of guerrillas, George L. was captured and taken by the guerrillas. Whether he escaped we never learned but just three months later, August 28, 1863, George L. was reported as being killed while in his line of duty. He was killed at Cabin Creek. He was 18 at the time of enlistment.

While fighting guerrillas, Abe Smith was again captured. And again he escaped while under heavy fire by six guns and being chased for over two miles, and having about 30 shots fired at him. Another time while on advance guard in Arkansas in 1864, he and two other of his company were fired on from the brush at close range, while crossing a bridge, there being about 200 shots fired without effect. Abe also told that while sheriff he was in two gun battles, but seemingly, the only time he was wounded was August 7, 1864 in Battle of Bull's Buyou, Ark., in line of duty charging through timber when his horse fell coming on top of him, also received a gunshot wound in left leg between the knee and ankle at the same time. He was carried from the field with his right side, shoulder and hip dislocated. He was in the

Post Hospital until ordered to his Regiment to be mustered out of service on January 16, 1865. His war record shows that he was five foot, six inches in height, and dark complexed.

All men in the cavalry at that time furnished his own horse, bed roll and equipment. The records of George L. Smith showed that Abraham Smith, "his father" collected $125 from the U. S. Government for the loss of the outfit.

Abe Smith returned to his home near Humboldt, where he lived for a few years before moving to Woodson County. However, it was on August 1, 1865 that Abraham Smith filed claim on 40 acres in his name and 40 acres in name of his son George L. Smith, in Woodson County. The next year he filed and received a patent on another 80 acres joining the first he filed on. This 160 acres was in the SW 1/4 of section 4, Twp. 25, R. 15. Also this same year Abe Smith received a patent for the NW 1/4, of section 9, joining on the south side of the first quarter section. This was located two miles west and less than a mile north of Yates Center. A quarter section of it is where the Dassow Orchard is now.

The 40 acres deeded to George L., was evidently a soldier claim and in September, 1867, Abe Smith received an Administrator Deed.

* * * * * *

We will take up the children and grandchildren of Abraham and Angeline Smith.

Fidelia E., married Robert E. Culbertson, in 1860. They had seven children, Alice, James, Annie May, George W., Sherman, Harry and Lizzie.

Phoebe Ann married Joe Munkers. They had a daughter, Menerva.

Francis Marion. Married - no children.

Laura A. married Amos Blake. Their children were, William, Amos and Grace.

Chester A. Never married.

Mary E., married Edward J. Dumond. They had four daughters, Edna-married Julius Nelson; Ada-married Willard Watkins. They had nine children; Edith married Ernest E. Mentzer. They had 11 children; George E., Talmadge (Tye), Fleta, Austin, M. Burdette, Keith, Juanita, Norryce, Lovell, who was killed in action in World War II, and Donald. Laddie died at age six months; Ursula married Leslie Brown, their children were, Elsie, Ula and Robert.

Martha Elizabeth, married Eugene Collins. They had two sons, Bob and Howard.

Ada E. Smith married Charles Reed. They had one daughter Jennie Reed. After the death of Charles Reed, Ada E. married Charles Burns, whose wife Jennie died September, 1886. They had three children, Eliza, Everett, and Henry Burns. Henry Burns married Pearl Ellis. They had two sons, Presley and Eugene.

Charles and Ada E. Burns had four children. Fred, Nellie Lula and Leslie.

Charles A. Smith married Rosa Richards. They had three children, Edward, Walter and Daisy.

Daisy married Robert Cook. They had 9 children.

* * * * * *

We will mention a few remarks and episodes that the newspapers told about Abe Smith. His name was almost legend as we have been told tales that Abe was supposed to have taken part in, that occurred years after he was sheriff.

Woodson County Post, October 6, 1875 —

"It is noted that Abe Smith has announced himself as a candidate for sheriff. He rendered himself rather unpopular last spring with the thieving portion of the county by the active part he took as a neighbor in helping Wm. Stewart bring the parties to justice who stole his horses."

Abe Smith was elected as sheriff of Woodson County at the November, 1875, election.

In September, 1877, the Yates Center News reports "Sheriff Abe Smith has become the owner of L. Wilkenson's fast mare and thinks he can pick up any horse thief, provided that it doesn't get too much of a head start."

Abe Smith was re-elected as sheriff of this county in the general election of November, 1877. During his last year as sheriff Abe had at least two very close calls gun battles with desperadoes. The July 31, 1879 issue of the Weekly News gave this account. "D. Luse of Humboldt was charged with horse stealing in Allen County. Allen County Sheriff Hodson, gathered a posse and gave chase. The chase led through the south ern part of Woodson County. A call was made to Abe Smith, Sheriff of this county for help.

Sheriff Smith and D. A. Crist, trustee of Perry Township answered the call and came across the horse thief who happened to be fleeing in a carriage. The Woodson County men gave chase and about four miles from Fredonia, Luce seeing he was losing ground jumped from the carriage and was closely followed by Abe and Crist. Luce turned and fired two shots, one of them cutting the skin on Abe's face. Crist opened fire on Luce at that time saving Abe from anymore danger. Luce when captured had ten gunshot wounds, and Abe Smith another one of his close escapes.

The other close call of Abe Smith was in the now famous shootout on the square of Yates Center. This story appeared in the Special Edition of the Yates Center News. The more we research that event the more we find out. We will not tell it in this issue, but later and then perhaps we will have the whole story.

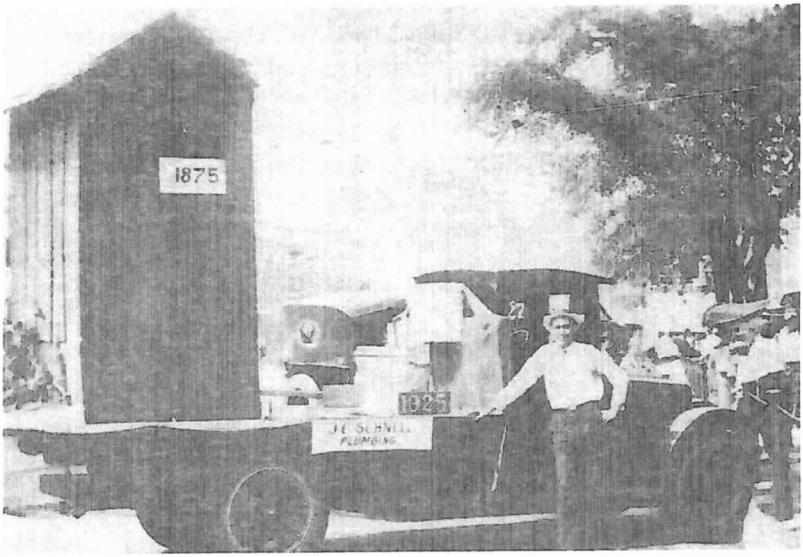
* * * * * *

Two Queens — The earliest arrival for the Centennial year was little Miss Kiesha Kaye Lauber, daughter of Rick and Lana Lauber, who was the first Yates Center baby born in the Centennial year. She arrived on February 12, 1975.

The elder Queen is Mrs. Grace E. Downey, who is also the Yates Center Centennial Queen. Mrs. Downey was born on a farm near Vevay, Indiana, on October 16, 1872. Soon after this issue of **In The Beginning** comes out Mrs. Downey will observe her 103rd birthday. Born Grace E. Hyde, she was married to Edwin C. Downey on November 16, 1890. Four years later, in 1894, Mr. and Mrs. Downey came west to Woodson County.

While she is 3 years older than Yates Center, Mrs. Downey has lived in the town for 81 years. The baby dress that Rick is holding was one that Mrs. Downey wore when she was two years old. Mrs. Downey still has her own apartment and does most of her own housework.

Pictures of past Yates Center Celebration Parades



Float of J. C. Schnell, plumber, showing the 1875 and 1925 subjects of sanitation. 50th Anniversary Parade, 1925.

Diamond Jubliee Celebration Parade, 1950. The old horse-drawn hearse, with Earl Christy and Lowell Johnson aboard.

THE FINNEY COMMUNITY —

The community known as Finney lies on both sides of Turkey Creek in the west part of Liberty township. Going seven miles north of Yates Center and go west for two miles and the next two miles on west would put one that was about the center of the Finney Community of many years ago starting somewhere around 1870.

The community received its name sometime in the early 1880's, being named for the Hon. David W. Finney, who was serving as Lieut. Governor of the State of Kansas. Finney made an effort to get a railroad through the part of Woodson County, that would go through the Finney vicinity.

The railroad was surveyed but was never built. While no town was ever built there Finney had at different times a post office, general stores, blacksmith shops, a school and a church. There was a house on most every 80 acres in this area.

It would be difficult at this time to tell just who the first settler was in this vicinity was, but one family that could be was the Fay family. The Fays' came here prior to 1860. Luke Fay received a patent from the U. S. Government in 1861 for 160 acres, with Turkey Creek running through it. The log cabin was just to the east and a little south of the present creek bridge. With Luke Fay lived his mother, a sister, Julia and a brother Mark. During the Civil War Luke and Mark joined the Union forces. It was told that Mark Fay was killed in action. We presumed that they joined one of the Kansas companies, but we have not found any record. They all evidently left this vicinity soon following the close of the war. The Fay's were related to the Asa Whitney family on down the creek at that time.

The first post office given the name of Finney was organized August 4, 1880, by Christopher Hutchins. Mr. Hutchins lived and owned the southeast quarter of section 6, Twp. 24, R. 15. He had purchased this farm the year before from Henry Harris who had homesteaded it in 1871. Hutchins sold this farm in 1881 to D. J. Collins who also took over as postmaster. He had a small stock of groceries which he handled along with the post office. Sometime later in 1882, Collins sold the 40 acres to Joseph Gordon, who moved there with his wife, Martha Jane and family, John, Bessie, Grace, India, Sam, Bert, Mabel & Glennie.

The post office, however was transferred to the Fred Arnold home, a quarter mile to the south. The Arnold's also operated a small store along with the post office. Fred L. Arnold, a young veteran of the Civil War, came to Woodson County, and to this part of Turkey Creek from Illinois in 1866. In 1869 he received a patent from the U. S. Government for 80 acres along upper Turkey Creek. The north end of this 80 acres took in what is now the Askren Cemetery and the south

end along the creek. This was Mr. Arnold's soldier claim, but he did not keep it very long as he soon sold it to the Askren's. In 1868 Fred L. Arnold was married to Miss Helen S. Miller. They lived on the farm farther up the creek belonging to W. B. Stines. They lived here until 1870 when he purchased 120 acres in the Finney vicinity. Of the children of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold there were, Dora, Warren, and Nellie, the latter, Mrs. Nellie Manifold is the only one living. The Finney was kept in the Arnold home for many years.

In 1882 John Meyers came here from northeastern Indiana and started a blacksmith shop a quarter mile from the present Burt. Four years later he sold his shop to Forrest Randall. When Randall purchased the shop from Meyers an agreement was made between them that as long as Randall operated this shop Meyers would not start another in that vicinity. In 1891, Forrest Randall moved his shop to Vernon. So when this happened John Meyers opened a blacksmith shop on his farm just to the east side of Turkey Creek along the road mentioned above. It was along the north side of the road where it made a large curve. This was rather a large shop with the door on the south side large enough to bring a team and wagon in. John Meyers built up quite a trade as a horseshoer and wagon builder. They lived in a basement house walled up with limestone rocks about a hundred yards to the south of the shop. This basement can still be found very close to the east bank of the creek.

About 1895 George Harter purchased 80 acres on the hill east of the Finney bridge over Turkey Creek. (This was in the extreme northwest corner of the present Rose farm. Here Harter built a store building and conducted a general store. The post office was transferred from the Arnold home to the Harter store. This store was only about a mile and half from the Burt store and was discontinued when Harter sold the land to Arza Hays.

The next home for the Finney post office was to the home of James Williams. James Williams had purchased the farm about a half mile west from where the first post office was established. The post office was in the Williams home until it was discontinued January 31, 1902 when the Rural Free Delivery Route No. 2 was started. Mrs. Florinda Williams, the second wife of James Williams, was the postmaster.

- ***To Be Continued*** -

PATRONS OF THE WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

John V. Glades Agency
Woodson County Co-op
State Exchange Bank
Street Abstract Co. Inc.
Schornick Oil Co.
Self Service Grocery
Krueger's Variety
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Beine
Hi-Way Food Basket
Bill Herman
Piqua Farmer's Co-op
Gualding Oil Co.
Donald E. Ward
Morton Equipment Co.
Swope & Son Implement Co.
Campbell Plumbing & Electric
Clyde Hill
Cantrell Buick-Pontiac
Paul C. Laidlaw
Rogers Brothers Garage
Charles H. Carpenter
Newtex Manufacturing Co.
J. C. Schnell
Smith Furniture & Funeral Home
Superior Building Supply, Inc.
Glenn Shaw
Pringle Ranch-J. W. & J. Richard
W. K. Stockebrand
Woody's Cafe
Kimbell Ranch - Ed Kimbell
Edwin H. Bideau Associate Agencies, Chanute
Al's Jewelry
First National Bank, Toronto
Blackjack Cattle Co.
Wilma Mark
Yates Center Elevator
Jasper's Shopping Spot
Bill Taylor-Gen. Agent Woodson Co. Farm Bureau
Atkin Clinic
Daly Western Supply
Pyeatte-Jaynes Ins. Agency
Dyer Chevrolet
Linde Barber Shop
House of Fabrics
Milton Wrampe
Yates Center News
E. E. Light
Atkin Rexall Pharmacy
Yates Center Skelgas Service
Campbell Furniture & Undertaking
Mr. & Mrs. Glen Baker
Piqua State Bank
Wendall McMurry
McGinty-Coffman Dept. Store
E. Guy Reid
J & W Manufacturing Co.